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Abstract

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The Most Important Class that Doesn’t Exist: Computer Science in Utah Classrooms

From 2010 to 2020 there are expected to be over 750,000 new jobs in the US in computer science, yet less than a third of Utah high schools offer computer science classes. Where will the over 7000 companies that will be looking to hire computer scientists in Utah look for employees? In order to produce the college graduates necessary to fill the ever increasing amount of jobs Utah schools should require coursework in computer science in order to qualify for graduation. This will provided necessary experience for students to succeed in computer science at a college level and eventually fill the many jobs available.

Not only are there a seemingly endless amount of jobs available, they are high paying jobs. The average salary of a software developer is $101,410 annually. With such competitive pay, it’s amazing that more students aren’t making computer science their career choice. People aren’t doing it because they are not exposed to it at an age when it can make an impression on their career decisions. Similarly, students who don’t gain experience early on may find computer science at a college level too difficult and become discouraged. Requiring classes in computer science during high school will remedy these issues. It will provide a controlled learning environment where students can focus on learning how to write computer code.